## Maine Mercury (Hg) Timeline

UMO study finds high Hg levels in fish in Northern Maine Lakes.

Pollutant discharges to water require license passes 38 MRSA § 413 \$500,000 REMAP study of 125 lakes shows statewide contamination One of the 1<sup>st</sup> monitors in the National Mercury Deposition Network sited at Acadia

1995

Passage of Hg in licensed wastewater discharge limited to 45 grams/yr. Leads to closure of Holtra Chem @ 12lbs/yr. 38 MRSA § 420 (1) (A-1)

NESCAUM led study finds 1/3 of mercury emissions deposited in the region are from power plants outside the region and leads to NEG/ECP Mercury Action Plan

DEP Rules Ch 121 adopted-Reduce Hg emission limits for municipal incinerators based on proposed federal requirements

NEG/ECP Mercury Action Plan (MAP) to reduce mercury 50% by 2003. Landmark bi-national effort that goes beyond U.S. and Canadian federal requirements

1980

1987

1989

1993

1997

1998

1999

DEP
Bioaccumulation
Monitoring begins

Maine eagle study; Hg concentrations highest in U.S.

1992

International Toxics Monitoring Program finds trends of more Hg in snow & peat moss in southwest of the northeast region (New England and Maritimes) Leads to regional discussions on Hg. Statewide fish consumption advisory for Hg issued for lakes by Bureau of Health. First in Northeast.

1994

Surface Water Ambient Testing (SWAT) begins SWAT results; widespread contamination in rivers & streams

Fish Advisory broadened to included rivers & streams

Limit on Hg Air Emissions passes- 38 MRSA § 585-B. Discharge laws pass-Dental facilities must prepare pollution prevention plans. Recommend standard for Hg discharge protective of human health. Est interim Hg discharge limits by rule 38 MRSA § 420

Mercury Products Advisory Comm created 38 MRSA §1670



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185,000 lbs surplus Hg from Holtra Chem sent into long term storage; agreement crafted between, the owner, **MWSI & NRCM** 

Eff Jan 1- Hgadded product must be labeled. 38 MRSA § 1662

July-Dental facility pollution prevention plans submitted

Additional \$900,000 bond approved to fund recycling sheds and collection events

Sept 15- Last medical

waste incinerators at

Calais & Ft. Kent close

Eff July 15- Disposal ban on Hg-added products for business 38 MRSA §

> Eff Jan 1 -Sales ban on mercury fever thermometers & dairy manometers 38 MRSA §1661-C

available New England Zero Mercury campaign recognizes Maine as the New England leader

Eff Dec 31-Aamalgam wastewater separators must be installed. 98% mercury reduction expected. 38 MRSA in Clean Air Act

2004

65 thermostat recycling

centers now

Maine intervenes as a state & through regional & national groups to challenge Federal efforts to weaken Hg reductions

35 lbs. Hg

>850,000 Hg-added lamps, 26,000 thermostats & other devices recycled =1,100 lbs. Hg

Eff Jan 1-Air emissions limits reduced to < 50 lbs./yr. 38 MRSA § 585-B

700 lbs. of elemental Hg from

switches from junked vehicles =

80 schools: 17.000 mercury

2000

Eff Jan 1-Air emission limits drop to

facilities shall also comply. 38 MRSA

<100 lbs/yr . Resource recovery

DEP Ch 519 rules

adopted. Interim Hg

discharge limits est.

§585-B

with Oct 2001 sunset

2002

Both have exceeded 50%

reduction goals

collected =26 lbs. Hg Maine achieves 65% reductions & the region achieves 55% reduction.

Casco Bay Study concludes that air borne deposition responsible for 84-92% of mercury loading in to Casco Bay.

Jan 1. Hg switches in auto must be removed before auto is junked. 1st in nation law. Sales ban on vehicles with Hg switches after this date. 38 MRSA § 1665-

> Comprehensive law passes to ban sale of all Hg switches, relays and measuring devices Eff July 1, 2006 38 MRSA §1661-C

2001

NEG/ECP commits to further reductions 75% by 2010

Fish tissue criteria for human health & ambient discharge criteria passes, 38 MRSA § 420

Maine Hospital Association and 39 members sign pollution prevention agreement with a focus on elimination of Hg. DEP provides technical assistance. MHA is recognized in 2002 with an award for their leadership role and progress

ISept.-Holtra

Chem ceases

production

Fall-Oct sunset on Interim mercury discharge limits removed. 38 MRSA § 413? ck cite

DEP/SPO offer new municipal grant program to provide recycling space at municipal and regional level (\$300,000)

**DEP Universal Waste** Rules adopted to facilitate handling of mercury containing products

> Eff Aug 15 - Deadline for new fed'l Hg reductions 40 CFR Part 62. Six of eight medical waste incinerators have closed

2003

All 26 dairy manometers

§ 1667

Maine's leadership role has resulted in receipt of EPA \$ for conference May 23-25 Achieving Mercury Reduction in Products & Waste

2005

Eff Jan 1 – Disposal Ban on Hg- added products in solid waste extended to consumers. 38 MRSA §1666